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conomic development of this country one must approach it with a thoroughly unbiased mind and study the working of the factors in an environment different from any that the world had experienced up to that time. The great merit of Commons's contribution to the study of the labor movement lies just in this objective attitude, which permits him to interpret the documents justly and ably. We have for the first time an adequate picture of the changes in industry correlated with the labor movement in its narrower aspect. However, the success with which this is carried out will be better shown in the subsequent volumes; the two under review deal rather with the struggles between labor and the growing power of capital, and the long-continued, difficult, and often painful progress of readjustment that was taking place in the position of labor. The worker was being transformed from a more or less independent journeyman artisan to a capitalless wage laborer.

The documents presented contain much material of value to the economic historian and throw a clear light upon the industrial changes that were taking place during the first few decades of the nineteenth century.

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Social and Industrial Conditions in the North During the Civil War. By EMERSON DAVID FITE. Assistant Professor of History in Yale University. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1910. Pp. viii, 318. \$2.)

It is refreshing to find historians beginning to realize the importance of economic factors in American history. For no period of our national life has attention been so exclusively fastened on the military and political events as for that of the Civil War. It is striking therefore that one of our younger historians should select this particular period in which to portray the social and industrial development of the nation. Actually, as Professor Fite shows conclusively, the fact of war interfered very little with the economic expansion of the North and in some respects even stimulated it. Indeed, one almost has the impression, after reading this book that the North during the period 1861 to 1865 was but

slightly affected by the existence of an exhaustive civil war on its borders, so pronounced is the growth of peaceful occupations.

In eleven chapters Fite has traced the development of agriculture, mining and lumbering, transportation, manufacturing, commercial life, capital, labor, public improvements, education, luxuries and amusements, and charity. The subjects of finance, tariff, currency, and banking are not discussed, presumably because they had already been adequately treated elsewhere. In this many-sided survey the conclusion is everywhere the same—the period of the Civil War was one of unexampled prosperity and expansion. The lack of labor in agriculture and manufacturing was made good by the employment of women, by the invention and use of labor-saving machinery, and by the increase of population through immigration. Transportation systems were improved, concentration and organization were given a great impetus, in labor circles as well as industrial. While the sudden fortunes of the war period gave rise to a new spirit of extravagance, luxury, and display, there was on the other hand much done in the way of public improvements, promotion of education, and charity. One or two points in the book might be criticised: the fluctuations in the value of the greenbacks are explained entirely as the result of the varying fortunes of the Union armies; no mention is made of over-issue or of other contributing causes. The author is “surprised” at the extent to which women were employed in industry at the outbreak of the war, though they had been so employed for thirty years. In the chapter entitled Mining and Lumbering less than one page in eighteen is given to the latter subject, which might well have been omitted from the title—or expanded.

The volume as a whole is thorough, scholarly, and well-written. The author has shown the most commendable industry in his search for material and has apparently left little unread in the way of contemporary newspapers, journals, public documents, and reports; few references are given to books.

It is interesting to note that two Yale men—Professors Schwab and Fite—have now contributed the most complete and authoritative accounts of the South and North, respectively, during the Civil War. It is to be hoped that further intensive work of the same kind may be done in other periods of our history.

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